

	A (4)	B (3)	C (2)	D (1)
1	Clearly & effectively responds to assignment.	Response to assignment generally adequate and thorough.	Minimally responds to assignment.	Does not respond well to assignment.
2	Demonstrates specific attention to relationship between audience & purpose.	Demonstrates understanding of audience & purpose.	Demonstrates some understanding of audience & purpose.	Demonstrates poor understanding of audience & purpose.
3	Main idea (thesis) very clearly stated & topic is effectively limited.	Main idea clear & topic is limited.	Main idea clear or implicit & topic is partially limited.	Main idea unclear & topic only partially limited.
4	Thesis supported in body of paper by a variety of relevant facts, examples & illustrations from experiences, references to related readings, etc.	Thesis well supported in body of paper by facts, examples & illustrations though support may not be as vivid as in an "A" essay.	Thesis generally supported in body of paper by facts, examples & details. No more than one paragraph with inadequate support.	Thesis supported in body of paper by few facts, examples & details. More than one paragraph with inadequate support.
5	Organization & structure very evident: major points divided into paragraphs & signaled by use of transitions. Each paragraph has a topic sentence; sentences within each paragraph relate to each other & are subordinate to the topic. Introduction & conclusion effectively related to the whole.	Organization & structure clear. Most major points are separated into paragraphs and signaled by transitions. Paragraphs are built on related sentences that logically develop the main points. No major digressions are present. Introduction & conclusion effectively related to the whole.	Organization & structure mostly clear. Many major points are separated into paragraphs and signaled by transitions. Most points are logically developed. There may be a few minor digressions. Introduction & conclusion are somewhat effective.	Organization & structure must be inferred by the reader. Only some major points are set off by paragraphs and signaled by transitions. There are some logically connected points. There may be some major digressions. Introduction & conclusion may be lacking or ineffective.
6	Voice & tone are consistent & appropriate to audience/purpose.	Voice & tone are consistent & appropriate although somewhat generic or predictable in places.	Voice & tone adequate to audience/purpose although often generic or predictable.	Voice noticeably generic or inappropriate (e.g. first person narrative may predominate in an analysis assignment). Tone is often inappropriate.

7	Full variety of sentence structures used correctly. Word choice interesting, accurate and contributes to the writer's ability to communicate the purpose.	Variety of sentence structures used correctly despite an occasional flaw. Accurate & varied word choice is present.	Sentences & word choice predictable. Occasional errors in sentence structure, usage & mechanics do not interfere with writer's ability to communicate purpose.	Little sentence structure variety; wording predictable; few synonym alternatives used. Errors in sentence structure, usage & mechanics sometimes interfere with writer's ability to communicate purpose.
8	Few, if any, minor errors in sentence construction, usage, grammar, or mechanics.	There may be a few minor or major errors in sentence construction, usage, grammar, or mechanics.	There are some common errors (major and minor) in sentence construction and mechanics, but the writer generally demonstrates a correct sense of syntax.	There are numerous minor errors and some major errors. Sentence construction is below mastery and may display a pattern of errors in usage and mechanics.
9	Few, if any, minor errors in following MLA manuscript conventions. In-text citations and the Works Cited page are properly formatted according to MLA style guidelines.	There may be a few minor or major errors in following MLA manuscript conventions and in properly formatting in-text citations and the Works Cited page in accordance with MLA style guidelines.	While basic MLA manuscript conventions are being addressed and a basic understanding of offering and formatting in-text citations and a Works Cited page in accordance with MLA style guidelines is evident, several minor and major errors are present.	Significant errors in following MLA manuscript conventions are evident. In-text citations are missing or incorrectly formatted. The Works Cited page is incomplete. Significant errors in formatting the WC page in accordance with MLA guidelines are present.
10	Research demonstrates an appropriate reliance on both print and electronic resources. Sources used are appropriate to the topic and are credible, demonstrating an appropriate mix of scholarly and popular research.	Research demonstrates an adequate collection of print and electronic resources, most of which are appropriate to the topic. A satisfactory mix of scholarly and popular research is represented.	Research indicates some need for additional print and/or electronic resources and/or a need for additional sources that are more credible and/or appropriate to the topic.	Research indicates an inability to identify and collect a sufficient balance of print and electronic sources that are credible and appropriate to the topic.

11	References to sources are effectively incorporated. Summaries and paraphrases show mastery of information and are skillfully written. Selective and appropriate direct quotations are used.	References to sources are adequately incorporated. Summaries and paraphrases show a solid understanding of information and are adequately expressed. There is an appropriate use of direct quotations.	References to sources are adequately though at times awkwardly incorporated into the paper. Summaries and paraphrases don't always indicate solid comprehension of source material and/or could be improved upon stylistically. Direct quotations are not always appropriately utilized.	Sources are not sufficiently utilized or are often not introduced or explained. References to sources may consist only of direct quotations or poorly composed summaries or paraphrases. The relevance of source material may be unclear.
12	Pre-writes, drafts, and revisions show evidence of full engagement with writing as a process. Quality of ideas and expression are significantly advanced.	Pre-writes, drafts, and revisions show satisfactory engagement with writing as a process. The quality of ideas and expression in the final draft show improvement from the early stages of writing.	Pre-writes, drafts, and revisions show some engagement with writing as a process. There is some evidence of improvement in expression and advancement of ideas.	Pre-writes, drafts, and revisions show little attention to engagement with writing as a process. Ideas expressed in early stages of the process have not been much advanced and there is significant room for improvement in expression.